

BRIEFING NOTE

Sayers Common Play Area – Reeds Lane Recreation Ground - Progress Review

1. This Note sets out the current position regarding this project.

2. The following sequence has so far occurred:

- The Toddlers Play equipment and outdoor gym equipment was installed in the South Rec September 2012 (£18,932 s106 funds)
- The Boules Pitch was installed in the North Rec September 2014 (£3,500 WSCC grant)
- The timber climbing frames were condemned and removed from the South Rec September 2016
- Note in Parish Newsletter Autumn 2016: advising that we will ask residents about future. (No response so far received.)

3. The following decisions have been made by Council:

(1) Finance + General Purposes Committee (11 August 2016):

Minute F16/024.5 (2) Reeds Lane Recreation Ground – play equipment: Further to the previous decision of the Committee (Minute F16/017.5 Meeting 7 July 2016) to agree to expenditure of £1,621.50 + VAT on repairs, it was subsequently discovered by the routine maintenance checks that other parts of the equipment contain rotting timbers and should be removed. The equipment had been sealed off to prevent use. The previous order for repairs was stopped and it was now recommended that all the timber equipment be removed and investigations started for the provision of suitable new play equipment. The current timber play equipment had not been well-used and did not meet the current needs of children. (This can be noted in contrast to the success of the new play equipment at South Avenue Recreation Ground.) There is also a satisfactory play area at Berrylands, operated by MSDC and closer to the majority of housing in Sayers Common. At this stage there is no budget provision for new equipment, and consideration would be given to costs and funding.

RESOLVED: The Reeds Lane Recreation Ground timber play equipment is removed and investigations are started into suitable replacements.

(2) Finance + General Purposes Committee (8 September 2016):

Minute F16/032.5 Recreation Grounds: The Committee were advised that a quote had been requested for the removal of the play equipment at Reeds Lane. Information from local residents is to be collated, about the potential uses, before any new equipment is to be installed.

(3) PARISH ACTION PLAN (Rev 2 31 August 2016) Item: 34 Reed Lane Play Area (subject to approval)

4. Potential funding: No project budget has been set but s106 funds have been allocated (MSDC Application ref: DM/15/1467):

- a) Kickabout £9,370.00 Kickabout provision at Reeds Lane Recreation Ground
- b) Playspace £33,067.00 Improvements to play equipment at Reeds Lane Recreation Ground
(Ref: MSDC Memo 19 January 2017 re DM/15/1467)

5. Matters for consideration:

- a) If further housing developments are given permission (i.e Kingsland Laines increases to 120, land north of Kings Centre is granted permission for 30+), then does this change the best location, the type of need and the available funding ?
- b) Would it be helpful if the outcome of the Kingsland Laines (120 house) appeal, set for May 2017, to be settled before any commitment was made to the what and where of new play space ? Would it be preferable to delay any public consultation until after the appeal result ?
- c) Additional housing development will likely be on the north side of Reeds Lane, so does this mean that the North Recreation Ground is the better place for additional equipment ? Otherwise all users would have to cross Reeds Lane.
- d) The existing fenced area within the Recreation Ground (South), now vacated by the time climbing frames, leaves a fenced area which could make a suitable '5-a-side' kickabout area. Two small goalposts would be required.
- e) The existing outdoor gym and toddler play equipment is in good condition, but would be expensive to move to the North Recreation area.
- f) What sort of additional equipment would best fit alongside the outdoor gym and toddlers play equipment ?

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CLERK TO THE COUNCIL
14 February 2017
